

**IN THE PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT
AT CHANDIGARH**

case much less under the NDPS Act. Learned counsel for the petitioner has urged that after he was arrested on 07.09.2023, only charges had been framed till date and the recording of prosecution evidence was yet to commence. Hence, the likelihood of the trial concluding in the near future was not possible for which he deserved to be granted the concession of regular bail.

3. Per contra, learned State counsel while opposing the prayer made by learned counsel for the petitioner, on instructions, has submitted that a secret information was received by the police qua the involvement of the petitioner in drug trafficking; subsequent thereto, the petitioner along with the co-accused was apprehended after due compliance of all the mandatory provisions of the NDPS Act. Learned State has further submitted that no doubt, the petitioner has not been previously involved in any criminal case, however, the recovery of narcotic/contraband effected from the petitioner is huge and falls under the commercial category. Learned State counsel has further apprised the Court that the trial has been going on at a good pace and the charges were framed as recently as on 19.03.2024. The prosecution evidence therefore, would in all likelihood commence on the next date of hearing.

4. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the material placed on record.

5. *Prima facie*, there are specific allegations levelled against the petitioner qua whom a secret information had been received and a

huge recovery of narcotic substances was allegedly affected from him. The recovery as already observed earlier has been classified as commercial under the NDPS Act.

6. In the facts and circumstances as enumerated hereinabove, this Court does not deem it fit to extend the concession of regular bail to the petitioner. Accordingly, the instant petition stands dismissed.

7. However, it is made clear that anything observed hereinabove shall not be construed to be an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

03.04.2024
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(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether reportable :	Yes/No